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Chicago 37, Ill
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Members of the Institute of North Mexican Studies:

The enclosed are the digests of the proposals of the various members which have been recieved to date. We have worked them all up by the same outline, and in most cases there are some blank spaces. Please fill in the ones on your own sheet. If you have any comments or questions about the other fellow's proposals, you might write to him direct and send a carbon to us to go in the Institute files.

We plan this as the body of a general statement of the formation of the Institute, its organization, and its aims and objects of its program. The first part of the statement will cover the details of the organization, its members and advsory council, headquarters, publication proposals, etc. There will also be a discussion of the importance of the area, and the need for a coordinated program to answer the many questions raised by the lack of knowledge of northern Mexico.

If you have any suggestions for the general statement, send them in too. We are enclosing a sheet with the specific proposals we have already recieved. Let's have your reactions to them too.

We would also appreciate it if someone would volunteer to take over the secretarial duties of the Institute until it has its own staff. Mac Neish and Lehmer peck these things out with two fingers in the home, and perhaps someone (like the University of Texas) has a spare typist who could handle the work. (nb there are also three members in Austin and only two of us here) Shall we put it to a vote?

Richard S. Mac Neish

Donald Lehmer

Several of the letters from the members had suggestions about the formation etc. of the Institute itself. We're listing them here so the rest of you fellows can have a look at them, make comments on them, and add any of your own that you may have.

Campbell:

Simple original prospectus containing a concise statement of the problems of the area and the desirability of a coordinated program of investigation, and the high priority programs of the individual members.

Organization of special conferences or possibly biennial symposia.

Broadening the scope of the Institute to include work in history and ethnography.

Attempt to organize the entire program to include work by the Mexican archaeologists and to do the work on a 50-50 basis with them.

Obtain an endorsement of the Institute and its program from the Society for American Archaeology and the American Anthropological Association.

Krieger:

Occasional conferences of members to outline problems and results and to promote cooperation.

Keep the formal organization at a minimum to consist of members and a director or board of directors. If there is only one director, get one of the Mexicans, if we have more than one, have both Mexicans and Americans. Include the Mexican archaeologists who are working in the area in the organization.

Expand the membership by inviting ethnohistorians, geographers, and geologists to join.

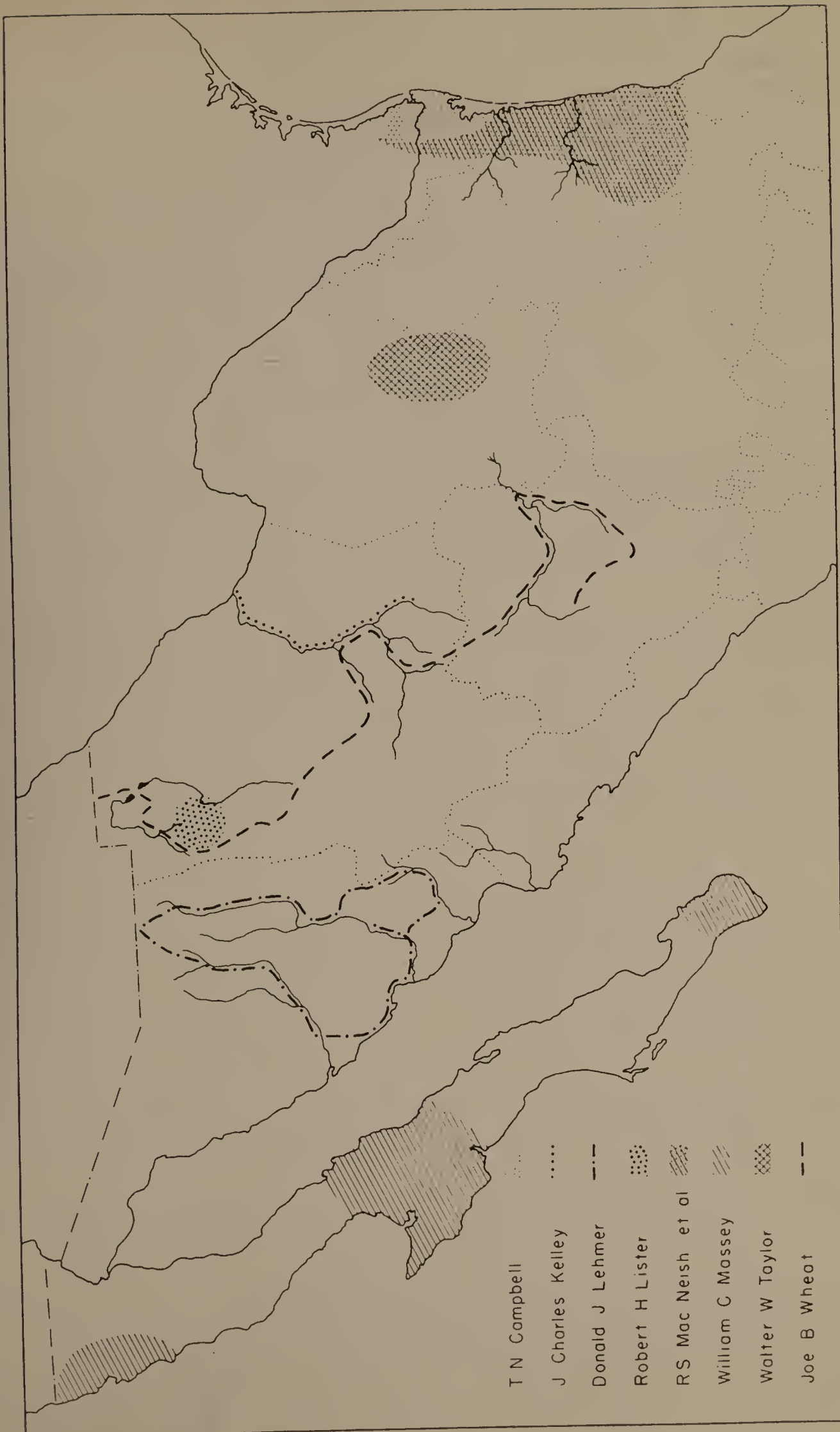
Massey:

Formation of a board of advisors as agreed.

An annual meeting of the members and such members of the Advisory Council as may be available.

A fund contributed by the members for stationary, postage, printing (or mimeographing) preliminary results of each member.

Announcement of the Institute in the professional journals.



Name: Donald J. Lehmer, PhD. Candidate, University of Chicago.

Area: Drainages of the Sonora, Yaqui, and the Upper Mayo rivers, and the western foothills of the Sierra Madre Occidental in Sonora.

Previous Work in the Area: Surveys in Sonora by Brand, Eckholm, Haury, Saur, and others. There is a minimum of published material on the archaeology of the area, and little correlation of the work which has been done.

Worker's Qualifications:

Scholastic: B.A., University of Arizona.
PhD. Candidate, University of Chicago.

Field: Previous work with buried sites in the Texas Big Bend Region with the Peabody Museum - Sul Ross College Expedition; excavation, with J. Charles Kelley, of village sites near Presidio, Texas, for Sul Ross College and the Museum of New Mexico; excavation and definition of the Jornada Branch of the Mogollon in south central New Mexico for the Arizona State Museum and the Museum of New Mexico.

Publications: "The Association of Archaeological Materials with Geological Deposits in the Big Bend Region of Texas," West Texas Historical and Scientific Society Bulletin, XXI, No. 3, Alpine, 1940.

The Jornada Branch of the Mogollon, University of Arizona Bulletin, in press.

The Bravo Valley Aspect at La Junta de los Rios (tentative) in preparation with J. Charles Kelley.

Specific Problems:

1. Establishment of the sequence of alluvial formations in the valley fills in eastern Sonora to provide paleoclimatological data and to provide a basis for the correlation of buried artifact materials within the area and with adjoining areas in southern Arizona and Mexico.
2. Collection of dendrochronological material from archaeological sites, from old buildings, and from live trees.
3. Definition of the southern limits of the Pleistocene Cochise Culture of southern Arizona, and an attempt to discover contemporary cultural manifestations farther to the south in Mexico.
4. An attempt to discover some evidence of the types of contacts between Mexico and the Southwestern United States which were responsible for the introduction of a sedentary horticultural pattern into the Southwest.
5. An attempt to establish a correlation of the cultural sequence of central Mexico with the sequence of the Southwestern United States through the association of artifacts with alluvial formations, cross cultural correlations, and dendrochronological materials. This would provide the basis for a correlation of the Middle American calendric systems with the Christian calendar via dendrochronology.

Program: A detailed survey of the area is proposed for the last quarter of 1948. It will include a reconnaissance to locate as many early sites as possible, and test excavations at a number of sites. The material to be investigated dates from before the 1st century A.D. It will be found in caves, in areas where surface erosion by wind and water has worn away overlying silts to expose materials contained in the valley fills; and buried in the valley fills and exposed by the cutting action of arroyos. Cave sites will be particularly valuable for providing a bulk of material in archaeological context; surface collections at the eroded open sites may be expected to yield large numbers of specimens, but they will not be in archaeological or geological context; the buried sites exposed by arroyo cutting will yield material in geological context which will permit an exact correlation within the area and with buried materials in southern Arizona. The material from the survey collections and the tests will be subjected to detailed laboratory analysis to set up various categories of artifacts and to correlate them with each other and with the geologic formations. This should provide an outline of the sequence of early cultures in the region which will then be amplified by extensive excavations at several key sites.

Finance: Tentative.

Name: Richard S. MacNeish (Sears and Krieger ?), Director of Second Tamaulipas Expedition.

Area: Cameron County, Texas, all of Coastal Tamaulipas, and all of the southern part of Tamaulipas north of the Huasteca.

Previous Work in the Area:

Worker's Qualifications:

1. MacNeish

Scholastic: B.A. Univ. of Chicago, 1940.
M.A., " " 1944.
PhD. Candidate, "
Aboriginal Research Fellow, Univ. of Michigan, 1946-47.

Field: Made the preliminary archaeological survey of coastal Tamaulipas, 1945-46.

Publications: A Preliminary Report on Coastal Tamaulipas, 1947; The Pre-Pottery Faulkner Site of Southern Illinois, 1948; Southeastern-Mexico relations in Light of a Survey of Tamaulipas, 1948.

2. William H. Sears.

Scholastic: B.A., University of Chicago, 1940.
M.A., " " " 1947
PhD. Candidate, University of Michigan.

Field: Archaeological work in Long Island; archaeological work in Central Illinois, 1947; archaeological work in Michigan, 1948.

Publications: The Archaic Culture of the Eastern United States (M.A.Thesis, 1947).

3. Alex Krieger.

Scholastic: B.A., University of California.
M.A., " " " "
Curator of Archaeology at Univ. of Texas.

Field: Caddo area and Central Texas, and is the foremost authority on Caddo archaeology.

Publications: Caddo Book.

Specific Problems:

1. Early Man.
 - a. Man associated with extinct fauna.
 - b. Developmental or pre-pottery periods or cultures in the area of the Huasteca
2.
 2. Mexican-Southeast Relationships
 - a. Late relations between northern coastal Huastec and Caddo Southern culture
 - b. Earlier spread of engraved pottery and associated traits from Mexico to Southeast.
3. Description and chronology of cultures of Tamaulipas.

Program: The problem of early man associated with extinct fauna will be tackled in the excavation of sites on which a projectile was presumably found with mammoth bones; the excavation of cave containing large amounts of late Pleistocene remains and the excavation of a Diablo culture cave, already known, to be at least older than Teotihuacan I times. The "pre-Archaic" problem will be dealt with in the excavation of two very thick shell middens which so far have only Huastec I remains on their surface. These excavations will be undertaken by MacNeish.

The best method for the solution of the Huasteco-Buzzard cult problem is the excavation of numerous northern coastal Huastec sites in Tamaulipas which will give sound factual data concerning the northern trade relationship of the Huastec. Sears will direct this part of the program. The solution of the problem of the spread of engraving from Mexico to the earliest Caddo will be undertaken by A. Krieger. Thorough examination and excavation of the late Pueblito culture remains in the Sierra de Tamaulipas and related culture along the edge of Sierra Madre (just north of the Huastec area noted by Griffin, Krieger, and Du Solier, having ceramic similarities to the Southeast) should cast new light on this problem. Finally, the excavation of the above sites plus the work of Campbell and MacNeish on the Brownsville culture as well as excavation of a large stratified Repelo-Abasola complex site should give much of the basic chronological framework and total trait complex of the cultures of Tamaulipas.

Finance: \$3,000 has been donated by the Viking Fund for the above program and the remainder necessary should be forthcoming.

Name: William C. Massey (position ?)

Area: Lower California

Previous Work in the Area:

Worker's Qualifications:

Publications:

Specific Problem: Work in the past and in the future has been directed towards a complete and systematic archaeological survey of the peninsula. Problems concerned apparently involved not only Southern California, but also the Greater Southwest. Included in this plan is an historical ethnography and language distribution work.

Program: Spring Field Season, for the excavation of several cave and open sites in the Cape Regions. Further analysis of data already obtained.

Finance: Field work has been supported by the University of California.

Name: Thomas N. Campbell, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology,
University of Texas

Area: Coastal Texas from Harlingen to Brownsville and Coastal Tamaulipas from Matamores to the mouth of the San Fernando River in a strip about fifty miles wide. Specifically, the area is that occupied by the Brownsville culture complex

Previous Work in the Area:

Qualifications of Worker:

Scholastic: B. A., University of Texas, 19 ?
M. A., Harvard, 194 ?
PhD., Harvard, 1947.

Field:

Publications:

Specific Problem:

1. Analysis, description, and distribution studies of archaeological materials of the Brownsville complex obtained from the Anderson collection and from the excavations and survey of Second Tamaulipas expeditions of 1948-49.
2. Determination of the chronological position of Brownsville complex.
3. Consideration of the external relations of the Brownsville complex, such as: (a) with the Huastec; (b) with other Texas coastal manifestations; (c) with Central (and Eastern) Texas archaeological manifestations.
4. Laboratory analysis in conjunction with MacNeish of the materials from 500 Brownsville complex sites in the Anderson collection and of the material from stratified sites excavated by MacNeish and others in 1948-49.

Program:

Finance: Arrangement may be made with the University of Texas for the publication of the material. Money for excavations will be supplied by the second Tamaulipas Expedition.

Name: Walt Taylor (Position?)

Area: Eastern Coahuila

Previous Work in the Area:

Worker's Qualifications:

Scholastic:

Field Work (particularly in Coahuila area):

Publications:

Specific Problem:

1. Delineation of the culture sequence of Coahuila.
2. Relationships of Coahuila Basket making people to that of other areas (Big Bend, Anasazi, etc.)

Since Taylor has done considerable excavation and survey in this area, the culture sequence has been established. A small amount of excavation may be done in the future to substantiate this chronology as well as to obtain more skeletal material. However, most of the future work will be concerned with analysis of material already obtained.

Program:

Finance: Funds have been set up by Smithsonian Institute for the laboratory work and small scale future excavations.

Name: Robert H. Lister (position ?) University of Colorado.

Area: Western Chihuahua (? Mountains, Basin, or both?)

Previous Work in the Area:

Qualifications:

Scholastic:

Field:

Publications:

Specific Problem: To define the time, space, and content of the Chihuahua or Casa Grande Culture. To investigate the possibility of connections between the Southwest United States and Mexico on the pre-Casas Grandes level. To collect dendrochronological specimens.

Program: Archaeological excavations in Casas Grandes sites, to locate and excavate earlier sites, and to make collections of dendrochronological material from standing trees, old buildings, and archaeological sites.

Finance: ?

Name: J. Charles Kelley, Assistant Professor in Anthropology, and Curator of Anthropology Museum, University of Texas.

Area: Valley of the Rio Conchos from Ojinaga to Jimenez Chihuahua.

Previous Work in the Area:

Worker's Qualifications:

Scholastic:

Field:

Publications:

Specific Problem: Determination of the southern cultural affiliations and extent of the Bravo Valley Aspect which has been defined in the area at the junction of the Conchos and the Rio Grande. The Bravo Valley Aspect is a late (1200-1800) sedentary agricultural horizon which appears to have developed from the fusion of Southwestern and Plains traits and which has a number of characteristics which suggest Mexican influence. It also was an intermediary in an extensive trade network between Mexico and the Southwest and the southern Great Plains in both prehistoric and historic times.

Program: An initial three month survey of the Conchos Valley by boat, car, and horse is proposed to locate sites, make surface collections, and test favorable locations for stratigraphy and to determine depth of deposits. This will provide the basis for selection of favorable sites for excavation. An attempt will also be made to extend the alluvial chronology of the Texas Big Bend into Chihuahua. Later phases of the program will include the excavation of sites in the Conchos Valley and an extension of the survey into the Babicora district of Chihuahua and the Rio Nazas drainage in Durango.

Finance: ?

Name: Joe Ben Wheat, M. A. candidate, University of Arizona.

Area: The Eastern foothills of the Sierra Madre Occidental including the head waters of the Casas Grandes, Sta. Maria, Conchos, and Nazas Rivers, in Chihuahua and Durango.

Previous Work in the Area:

Qualifications:

Scholastic:

Field:

Publications:

Specific Problem: A survey of the area indicated with a particular emphasis on early sites in caves, exposed by surface erosion, and exposed in arroyo walls. Material collected from the surface and in test excavations will be studied with a view to:

1. Determining the southeastern distribution of the Cochise complex and related manifestations;
2. Providing a basis for a direct correlation of the Cochise sequence with the sequence of buried horizons in the Texas Big Bend by means of a correlation of geologic deposits and by a cross-cultural correlation;
3. Attempting to discover some evidence of the types contacts between the Southwest United States and Mexico at about the beginning of the Christian era.

Program: A preliminary survey of the area is proposed for the early fall of 1948. On the basis of the results of this survey a detailed program will be set up to cover additional reconnaissance, testing of a number of sites, and more or less extensive excavations in key sites.

Finance: ?

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